

### REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 11, 2004. Claims 1-28 were pending and Claims 19 and 24-28 were allowed, Claims 1-3, 11, 20 and 23 were rejected, and Claims 4-10, 12-18, 21 and 22 were objected to, but noted as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Additionally, an informality with respect to the drawings was noted, and a proposed drawing correction is submitted herewith.

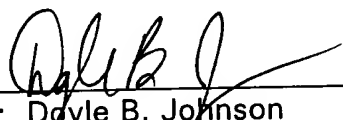
In response to the Office Action, Claims 1-3 have been cancelled and Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 20 has been cancelled, with Claim 21 being rewritten in independent form. Claim 23 has been amended to include the kTC capacitor limitation and is now believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, Claim 11 has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted below.

Claim 11 has been amended to particularly point out that in the present invention, each pixel cell includes its own adaptive skipping circuit. In contrast, the background suppression (skimming) scheme as taught by *Levy* (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,340) is globally controlled. In other words, each pixel lacks independent intelligence to perform background suppression specifically optimized to the photodiode current at each pixel. In *Levy*, the pulse generator 22 is common to ALL pixels in an imaging array. Therefore, *Levy* fails to teach or

suggest a skimming circuit that can self-adjust on a pixel-by-pixel basis. Therefore,  
amended Claim 11 is believed to be allowable over the cited prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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